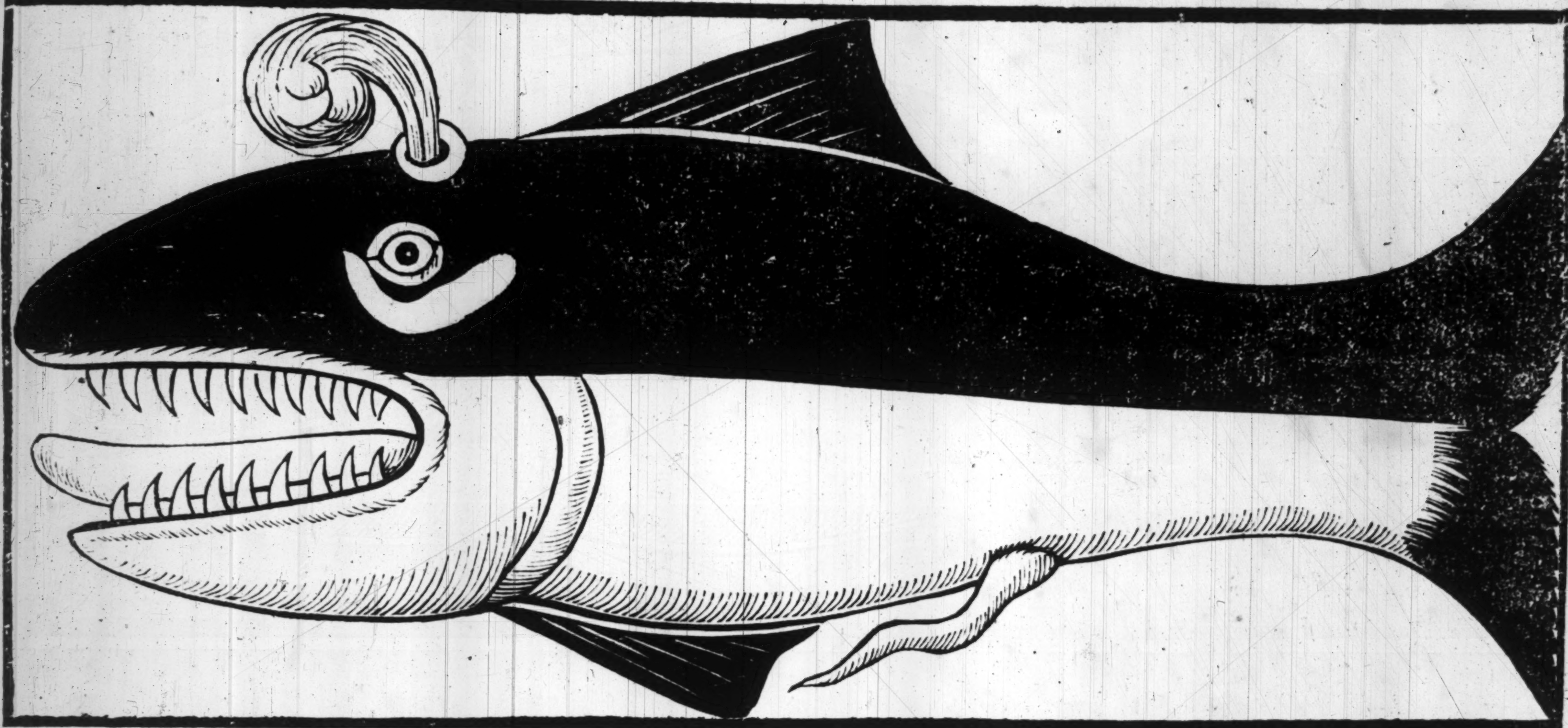


**A Moste true and marueilous straunge wonder, the lyke hath
seldom ben seene, of .xiiij. Monstrous fishes, taken in Suffolke, at Downam byrde, within a myle
of Ipswicke. The .xj. daye of October. In the yere of our Lorde God. M.D.LX.III.**



If you shall vnderstande, that the begynners first venturers
to take these fishes, was Nicholas Gibbins, and John Carnaby,
with theyr men: after came John Baker, and Robert Haulley w
theyr men, being all saylers & shipmen dwelling in Ipswicke,
with other, besydes manye of the countrey ther about, whiche when they
harde of it, came thither to helpe, and see the taking of them.

Also, of these .xiiij. fishes, there was a male, and a female, that was
more howge and monstrous then the other .xv. For the least of these .ii.
fishes, were .xxvii. foote longe: and as bigge in the middle eche of them,
as .iii. Buttes of Malmeie, and of a marueilous great strength, as it is
well known to dyuers in Ipswich & other places, beside those men aboue
named. For they tyed one of these fishes to a boat, to bynge hit to Ips-
wich wharfe, and being so tied to the boat, swam away wth the boat &
all the men that were in it, toward the sea a maruapulous swiftpace, for
all that they could do: this was when the tyde came in, for they had made
prouision befoze, whē the water was loo, to tie great ropes about theyr
tayles and finnes with small boates, and by such meanes as they could.
(And as I sayd befoze) the tyde coming in & the fysh hauinge water,
swam away with the boat so fast toward the sea, that if ther had not byn
rescue of other boates and such vessels as they had there, that boat and
all they in it, had ben lost and vterlie cast away. But as God wold haue
it, by the helpe of thother boates & vessels, tying the fysh also. Brought
him by force to a convenient place, and tied him fast to a tree with strong
Cable ropes, and so bynng them one by one, founde meanes to bynng
them to Ipswich wharfe. Ther they were layd with great labour and
trouble, besyde breaking of theyr wyndlace & a great Cable rope, wth
halyng them by, they weare of suche maruapulous greatnes, strength and
waght. Som of them laye vpon the wharfe .ii. dayes and a nyght befoze
they weare dead, and yet they strooke them wth Ares & other weapons
to kyll them. The ryuer wherin they weare taken was coloured red, w
the blood that issued from theyr woundes, whyle they weare a takyng, &
water beinge so deepe that a hoy might well ryde there in. Ther was
also .iii. Butchers a hole day cutting out one of these fishes, and as ma-
nye to carpe it away with hand barous to the town ware house, and the
Butchers were sayne to put on bootes to stand in to cut it out, it was so
deepe & full of garbyge: this fysh was a mans heygth in thiknes, from
the top of the backe to the bone: and his bones as harde as stoness, that the
Butchers mard al theyr Ares they occupied a bout them. The other .xv.
fishes were .xxiii. foote longe, and som of them, .xxi. foote, and byg accor-
ding to theyr length. But the .ii. biggest, male and female, was .xxvii.
foote long, and as byg in the middle as .iii. Buttes of Malmeie. Hauinge
a round snout. His mouth wyde, gapyng aboue a yerd broad. And had
xlviij. teeth, one beinge wyded & waith a pound & a halfe, viii. inches & a
half long, and aboue .vi. inches in compas a bout, yet none of the biggest.

Also a great long tunc, a marueilous byg head, & is a yerd betweene the
eyes. Upon theyr heads were holes, as big that a man might put in both his
fistes at once, out of the which they did spoute a great quantite of water
whyle they were a takyng, that they had almoste drownd .ii. boates men
and all, with spoutynge of water: for the water wold assende bypwarde
from the fishes, as hie as any house, and so fall down & weat all them that
were within theyr reache moste cruellie. Also they were white beneath
the eyes a hand broad, theyr eyes blacke, and no bigger then the eyes of a
Calf. Theyr backs as blacke as ynke, so smoth & byggt y one myght
haue scene his face on it, as in a dim Glasse. Theyr bellies as whyte as
mylke. And vpon their backs they had eche of them one great blacke fin
growing, and sum of them were a yerd and a halfe long, berie thicke, &
strong, and .ii. great blacke ones vnderneath the fore part of his bellye.
Also the male, one of the .ii. biggest had a yerde, that when it was out, was
more then .iii. quarters of a yerde long, and as byg toward his bodie as
a mans arme Acene & all, by the elbowe. His tayle was .iii. yerdess long,
and .ii. yerdess broad berie thicke & blacke, & wonderfull strong: for .x.
tall men stood bypon his tayle, & he listng his tayle by, ouer thure them
all. Also when he had listd by his tayle it was of such monstrous waight
strength, and bygnes, that when it fell the yerde ground wold ryng, and
shake therwith. Thys fysh was cut out in peeces, and geuen away to
diners in the towne that did eate of it, and was verie good meate, eyther
rosted or bakt, (so much of it as was kept sweete) and the meate of them
bakt tasted lyke red Deere. And as they cut it out it was wyded by pec-
ces, so that the yerde bodie of this one fysh, wyded .lxx. hondred the
bare carcas, besyde many lytle peecis that was geuen away vnto wated to
crauers that stood by, & besydes a Carte loade of garbyge that came oute
of his bellye, so that all together was a boue thre score hondred and od.
If the men of Ipswich had knowne so muche betyme whyle they were
swete, as they haue sence, they might haue made .ii. C. marche more of
them then is now made. But now they bee barreld byp to make Oyle of,
and will not bee sold for a great pece of monney.

And this you maye see, the perfect and true description, of these
straunge fishes, wherin is to be noted, the straung and marueilous
handpe workes of the Lord, blessed be God in all his giftes, & holpe
in all his workes, the Lordes name bee prayled, in them, and for
them, for euer and euer. So be it.

Quod.

Timothie Granger.

Imprynted at London in Fleetestreate, at the signe
of S. John Euangelist by Thomas Colwell.